

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

Welcome Packet Info for Travelers

PAYMENT PLAN –

St. Mary Pays JMJ	AMOUNT	YOU Pay St. Mary	AMOUNT
SEPT. 5, 2022	\$800	SEPT. 5, 2022	\$500
NOV. 15, 2022	\$1,529.40	JAN. 5 2023	\$1,300
JAN. 15, 2023	\$1,529.40	APRIL 5, 2023	\$1,500
APRIL 15, 2023	\$1,230.20	JUNE 5, 2023	\$1,789 (- eligible funds raised by parish event)
TOTAL	\$5,089	TOTAL	\$5,089

Payments can be made online or in person to the church via cash/check at anytime before the due date above.

Failure to pay by the due date will result in a \$100 late fee.

Each payment is non-refundable. If you should need to drop out of the trip, you will owe St. Mary the remaining balance that they have paid JMJ for your trip to date depending on the date that you have dropped out (*there is no refund for your trip regardless, FYI*).

Checks should be made out to: **St. Mary Parish** please mark **WYD** in memo and **attn: Life Teen** outside the envelope

All links for online payments can be found here: www.lifeteenhudson.com/wyd

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN TRIP-

WYD Package from CLE with 4-Star Hotel Lodging:

Includes roundtrip airfare from Cleveland, airport transfers in Europe, JMJyouth WYD Guide assistance from arrival to departure, 4-star hotel lodging in central Lisbon, public transportation, WYD registration and fees (up to \$200), delivery of WYD backpack and credentials, breakfast daily, WYD lunches and dinners, Lisbon walking tour, and and private tour guide for your group is included.

WYD Extension: Poland: 5 days, 4 nights

Get to know the great saints of Poland. In Warsaw, venerate the tomb of Bl. Jerzy Popielusko after Mass in the Church of St. Kostka. Spend an afternoon in Czestochowa with the miraculous image of the Black Madonna. Enter the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camps to memorialize the lost lives of our Jewish brothers and sisters. While there, visit the cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and pray with St. Theresa Benedict of the Cross (Edith Stein). Visit Wadowice, the hometown of Pope St. John Paul II where you can pray with his relics in his home parish. Finally, explore idyllic Krakow,

where Catholic churches are literally around every corner. Make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Divine Mercy, the convent of St. Faustina, and the Pope St. John Paul II Shrine. Includes airfare between Poland and Lisbon (or a nearby city), airport transfers in Europe, four nights hotel lodging, breakfast and dinner daily, guide support, and transportation and entrance fees per itinerary.

Day Trip: Fatima (during WYD week):

No pilgrimage to Portugal is complete without veneration of Our Lady of Fatima, one of the most important and most recognized Marian apparitions in the world.

Depart mid-morning to Fatima for a full afternoon at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. Stay for the evening Rosary procession.

Includes JMYouth WYD Guide support, transportation, and entrance fees. If scheduled during the week of WYD, the group will miss the day's WYD events.

"Student Protection" plan from Travel Insured:

JMYouth will purchase the "Student Protection" plan from Travel Insured on behalf of all trip participants, which helps protect you after departure. A copy of the plan document will be provided prior to departure. If individuals (in the USA only) would like to purchase optional Trip Cancellation / Trip Interruption and/or Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) benefits, they may upgrade the plan using custom links provided on your private group website.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU -

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Legal names, dates of birth, and genders of individuals participating in the group pilgrimage must be submitted. Each individual must complete and sign a Liability Release form prior to travel.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: A valid passport is required for all passengers traveling outside of the United States. Passports must be valid for at least six months after the scheduled return date.

Visas may be required for some travelers. It is the traveler's responsibility to obtain a passport, visas, and/or other documentation required for travel to and/or through each country on the final itinerary. Cancellation due to lack of proper documentation is the responsibility of the passenger and is not eligible for a refund.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT THIS INFORMATION - www.lifeteenudson.com/wyd

FUNDRAISING -

On Saturday, January 14th, St. Mary will be hosting a Monte Carlo game night at the parish to raise funds to provide scholarships for teen and young adult parishioners (23 yrs and under).

In order to be eligible for these scholarship funds, you/your family **must volunteer** & participate in the planning, inviting, coordinating of this fundraiser.

The scholarship amount given for each individual will depend on how much money is raised during the event and how many of the travelers remain eligible by participation in the fundraiser. Your scholarship funds will come off your final payment that is due in June, 2023.

For those that are not parishioners/not teens/young adults, we hope that you will still help/help spread the word about this fundraiser!

Letter Writing –

All attending WYD trip are eligible to participate in asking for funds from friends and family through sending fundraising letters. There is no limit to how much of your trip that you can get funded this way. Your donors will pay you directly, we recommend that you set up a venmo/paypal/zelle account and share that information with them in your letter so that they are able to give digitally and immediately (since we do not have an online giving platform for them to pay for your trip). They can also pay you via personal check or cash, whatever your donor/you prefer. **You will still make all payments to St. Mary in lump sums by due dates.**

I have attached a sample letter to get you started. You will be most successful with this fundraising strategy the more personalized that you make your letter, the wider of a net that you cast when sending it out, and the **key** is the follow up! Do not forget to call and set up a phone call/coffee date to talk to these individuals about your trip, (in person meetings are the most effective!) why you want to go and how they financially can help make that happen! Be sure to follow up with all donors 1 week after contact if they have made a verbal pledge, but have not followed through with their donation. Make sure you show them you are serious about your fundraising plan!

Ask your donors if they would like a receipt for their charitable donation (especially those that are making a considerable contribution) for tax purposes and St. Mary Life Teen Office can provide you with those to mail. **All receipt requests (including full names, donation amount, how donation was made, and date) must be turned in by 6/5/23. You will get receipts upon return from the trip & it will be your responsibility to get to donor.**

Here are some tips when constructing your letter:

Give a quick synopsis of where you are in life (high schooler in Life Teen, young adult, parent, etc.), then explain what it is you'll be doing and why you want to do it/what you are hoping to gain from it, and then give a brief description of what you want - be concise and to the point - and what the follow up steps will be (meaning if you are planning to call them in the coming days, ask them to meet up, etc.).

Don't be afraid of straight up saying that you need support - both financially and prayerfully - and that in turn you'll be praying for them throughout the whole process and on the pilgrimage.

To be successful, you must first know how much money you want to raise, and then figure out how many people you have to ask and how much you are going to have to ask each person for.

ie. if you need \$1,000 for the trip, but only have 5 people that you want/have to ask, you are going to be banking on each of them giving \$200. People want to know what your bottom line is, let them know what they can do to help you reach your goals. Make sure you have thought this through before giving them a call. Some will surprise you and give more generously than you asked of them, and some will not be able to give at this time. That is why it is always better to plan to ask more people than you need!

Social Media Fundraiser Board –

Post on your social media (instagram story or facebook) a fundraiser tile board of how much money you are trying to raise for your trip, asking friends/family in a 24 hr period to help “fill your board” and if they venmo/paypal (electronically send you the funds) that you will update the board and repost it periodically with their social media handle on the spot that they “sponsored.” Have amounts of all denominations (some small \$5, etc. and some larger \$50 maybe even \$100 if you think you have bigger donors on your accounts!!)

The goal would be planning ahead to see how much you think you could realistically raise in 24 hours. Breaking that amount into your array of squares. Say raising \$250, or \$500 – then breaking that into 6 rows of 4 tiles each with an amount written on it adding up to that amount (see example). Then every few hours, as people send you money, you will add their handle to the tile they sponsored and repost to show followers that people are getting in on the fun! This kind of momentum and desire to participate will make others want to show their support :)

Key to success here, before you post your fundraising board, post a slide explaining the trip, with a PERSONAL ask of why YOU want to go. How this is an opportunity of a lifetime for YOU. Make people feel personally connected to the project (some of the language that you are already using in your sponsorship letter). You can also link to World Youth Day videos/content that you find.

Then share how they would send you money. You have to keep up all day with updating for this to be successful. But in terms of reaching out to a population that you might not reach with your letters, this is easy money!

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFNM3X49T8/VfsnnAyTzB2Zbhgh75ATSg/view?utm_content=DAFNM3X49T8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

*To use template click the pencil in the lower left “use template” and it will make a copy for you to edit yourself to fit your needs (change colors, make it look like YOU! Change the amounts, how many squares, etc.!). Download when finished and use on your personal instagram/facebook stories!

Other Ideas –

- Buying a limited stock of candy/chocolate bars from GFS/Sam’s Club and selling them at sports games, etc.
- Asking local restaurants to sponsor a % off day for WYD to give you a cut of the funds & you advertise to friends and family to come eat there that day

- You could go in on this with a few other travelers to help spread the word (most corporations will not let individuals do this, nor will they do it for churches, but small personally owned restaurants might! Can't hurt to ask!)

THE FINE PRINT –

AIRLINE TAXES AND FEES: Airline taxes and fees fluctuate over time and will continue to do so until final payment is received, cleared, and paid to your airline(s). JMYouth will confirm the final estimated taxes and fees 10 days prior to final payment. If an adjustment is necessary, JMYouth will update your online invoice and notify the designated group contact of the change via email at that time.

EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS: The prices in this contract are based on the exchange rate between the US Dollar and any non-US Dollar currencies published on August 15, 2022. Your price may be adjusted to reflect exchange rate fluctuations until such time as payment in full is received by JMYouth and cleared by our bank. Any adjustments for exchange rate fluctuations will be made one week prior to final payment and updated on your invoice. Late payments made after the final payment date may be subject to additional adjustments. JMYouth is not responsible for fluctuations in exchange rates.

HEALTH: Each participant takes full responsibility for his/her ability to participate in the activities of the trip. JMYouth will try to accommodate the accessibility needs of handicapped persons where possible. However, JMYouth does not guarantee special accommodations beyond reserved lodging.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS: JMYouth is not responsible for any medical conditions that occur prior to, during, or after travel.

MEALS: There is no refund for unused meals. The type of meal offered is at the discretion of JMYouth and/or the facility preparing the meal. Special requests cannot be guaranteed.

FLIGHT ITINERARIES: Flights to and from Lisbon are limited. Consequently, flights may arrive or depart from other cities within one day's drive of Lisbon. The selection of air carriers and flight itineraries is at the sole discretion of JMYouth. JMYouth reserves the right to alter departure and arrival dates based on airline seat capacity and availability. Groups registering after July 1, 2022 are less likely to receive their precise travel dates. Groups are responsible for the cost of extra nights of lodging (including meals, transportation, and guide services) if flights are not available on their originally scheduled travel dates.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Air transportation is in economy class. Random seats are assigned for all group participants and no special requests can be accommodated. Special meal requests should be directed to the airline several weeks prior to departure. Airline tickets are not refundable unless stated otherwise. JMYouth cannot purchase airfare with frequent flyer miles. Reservations are made at group rates and cannot accommodate individual tickets unless stated otherwise. Air schedules are subject to change without notice, and JMYouth is not responsible for changes to the airline's schedule.

Groups are required to submit individuals' identifying information to JMYouth at least six months prior to departure, or sooner as required by airline contracts. If an airline contract allows name changes and/or corrections, applicable fees will be charged to your group's invoice after such changes are received in writing and confirmed by the airline. These terms vary by airline.

BAGGAGE: Baggage is limited to a maximum of one checked bag per passenger and one carry-on item per passenger (due to bus storage capacity). However, we recommend that passengers limit themselves to only one carry-on piece of luggage. JMYouth is not responsible for damage to or theft of any items or baggage at any time. Airlines have various and changing baggage fees and limits for carry-on items and checked bags. It is the responsibility of each passenger to inquire about baggage limits and to pay any baggage fees assessed by the airline.

TRANSFERS: Passengers arriving independent of the group are responsible for coordinating transportation to meet the group at their own expense. Passengers departing independent of the group are responsible for coordinating departing transportation at their own expense.